

THE CLAIMED INVENTION IS:

1. A viewfinder for mounting on a camera having a video signal tap,
comprising:

a support base assembly for mounting on the camera to extend forwardly and
5 laterally of the camera;

a pivot member pivotally connected to said support base assembly for selectively
pivoting about a laterally extending axis, said pivot member having electrical wires from
a connection to the video signal tap of the camera for transmitting video signals from the
camera; and

10 a pivot locking mechanism on said support base assembly and pivot member for
selectively locking said pivot member to said support base assembly to prevent pivoting
therebetween;

a viewing module releasably connected to said pivot member for extending
rearwardly along a side of the camera, said viewing module having a CRT facing
15 rearwardly and an eyepiece extending rearwardly for viewing said CRT; and

cooperating and releasable electrical connectors on said pivot member and said
viewing module for transmitting video signals from said pivot member to said viewing
module.

2. The viewfinder of claim 1, wherein said viewing module includes CRT
20 controls on an outer surface for manually controlling the CRT.

3. The viewfinder of claim 1, further comprising an extension member
releasably connected between said pivot member and said viewing module, said
extension member having cooperating and releasable electrical connectors on each

end releasably connected to said electrical connectors on said pivot member and said viewing module, respectively, and an electrical cable extending through said extension member and electrically connected to said electrical connectors on each end.

4. The viewfinder of claim 3, wherein said extension member comprises a
5 rigid member of a fixed length.

5. The viewfinder of claim 3, wherein said extension member is a closed tubular member for enclosing said electrical connectors and cable.

6. The viewfinder of claim 3, wherein said extension member is comprised of
10 telescoping tubular members with a locking mechanism between said telescoping tubular members.

7. The viewfinder of claim 1, wherein said support base assembly further
comprises a pair of cooperating dovetail slot members extending in a lateral direction
relative to the camera for a substantial distance for allowing substantial lateral
adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

8. The viewfinder of claim 7, wherein said pair of cooperating dovetail slot
15 members include a dovetail locking mechanism for selectively locking said dovetail slot members together.

9. The viewfinder of claim 1, wherein said support base assembly further
comprises a rod support base having a pair of spaced and parallel bores extending
20 longitudinally of the video camera and slidably receiving a pair of rods for allowing substantial longitudinal adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

10. The viewfinder of claim 9, wherein said rod support base includes a rod locking mechanism for selectively locking said pair of rods in a selected position on said rod support base.

11. The viewfinder of claim 2, wherein said outer surface on said viewing module on which said control knobs are positioned is a substantially vertical surface facing away from the camera.

12. The viewfinder of claim 1, wherein said pivot locking mechanism comprises a large diameter threaded ring encircling the pivotal connection between said support base assembly and said pivot member for selectively imposing a substantial frictional force therebetween for preventing relative pivoting.

13. The viewfinder of claim 1, wherein said cooperating and releasable electrical connectors comprise a single mating plug and socket mechanism with a multiplicity of separate electrical contacts in said plug mating with a multiplicity of electrical contacts in said socket.

14. The viewfinder of claim 1, wherein said optical lens system is adjustable for adjustably focusing on said CRT to accommodate the eye of the viewer.

15. The viewfinder of claim 1, further comprising a bayonet locking mechanism releasably connecting said viewing module to said pivot member, said bayonet locking mechanism having a rotatable lock for connecting and disconnecting said viewing module to and from said pivot member without rotating said viewing module relative to said pivot member.

16. The viewfinder of claim 3, further comprising a first bayonet locking mechanism releasably connecting said viewing module to said extension member and a

second bayonet locking mechanism releasably connecting said extension member to said pivot member, each said bayonet locking mechanism having a rotatable lock for connecting and disconnecting said bayonet locking mechanism without rotating said viewing module, said extension member and said pivot member.

5 17. The viewfinder of claim 3, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a pair of cooperating dovetail slot members extending in a lateral direction relative to the camera for a substantial distance for allowing substantial lateral adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

10 18. The viewfinder of claim 17, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a rod support base having a pair of spaced and parallel bores extending longitudinally of the camera and slidably receiving a pair of rods for allowing substantial longitudinal adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

15 19. The viewfinder of claim 18, further comprising a first bayonet locking mechanism releasably connecting said viewing module to said extension member and a second bayonet locking mechanism releasably connecting said extension member to said pivot member, each said bayonet locking mechanism having a rotatable lock for connecting and disconnecting said bayonet locking mechanism without rotating said viewing module, said extension member and said pivot member.

20 20. The viewfinder of claim 7, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a rod support base having a pair of spaced and parallel bores extending longitudinally of the video camera and slidably receiving a pair of rods for allowing substantial longitudinal adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the video camera.

21. A viewfinder for mounting on a camera having a video signal tap, comprising:

a support base assembly for mounting on the camera to extend laterally of the camera;

5 a pivot member pivotally connected to said support base assembly for selectively pivoting about a laterally extending axis,

a pivot locking mechanism on said pivot member and support base assembly for selectively locking said pivot member to said support base to prevent pivoting therebetween;

10 a viewing module releasably connected to said pivot member for extending rearwardly along a side of the camera, said viewing module having a CRT facing rearwardly and an eyepiece extending rearwardly for viewing said CRT; and

an electrical connection from the video signal tap of the camera to said viewing module for transmitting video signals from the camera to said viewing module.

15 22. The viewfinder of claim 21, wherein said viewing module includes CRT controls on an outer surface for manually controlling the CRT.

20 23. The viewfinder of claim 21, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a pair of cooperating dovetail slot members extending in a lateral direction relative to the video camera for a substantial distance for allowing substantial lateral adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

24. The viewfinder of claim 23, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a rod support base having a pair of spaced and parallel bores extending

longitudinally of the camera and slidably receiving a pair of rods for allowing substantial longitudinal adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

25. The viewfinder of claim 21, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a rod support base having a pair of spaced and parallel bores extending longitudinally of the camera and slidably receiving a pair of rods for allowing substantial longitudinal adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

26. The viewfinder of claim 21, further comprising an extension member releasably connected between said pivot member and said viewing module.

27. The viewfinder of 26, wherein said extension member comprises a rigid member of a fixed length.

28. The viewfinder of claim 26, wherein said extension member is comprised of telescoping tubular members with a locking mechanism between said telescoping tubular members.

29. The viewfinder of claim 26, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a pair of cooperating dovetail slot members extending in a lateral direction relative to the camera for a substantial distance for allowing substantial lateral adjustment of the position of the viewfinder relative to the camera.

30. The viewfinder of claim 26, wherein said support base assembly further comprises a rod support base having a pair of spaced and parallel bores extending longitudinally of the camera and slidably receiving a pair of rods for allowing substantial longitudinal adjustment of the position of the viewfinder eyepiece relative to the camera.

31. A viewfinder for mounting on a top-front portion of a camera having a video signal tap, comprising;

a support base assembly for mounting on the top-front portion to extend forwardly and laterally of the camera, said support base assembly having means for
5 allowing substantial longitudinal and lateral adjustment of the viewfinder;

a pivot member pivotal connected to said support base assembly for selectively pivoting about a laterally extending axis, said pivot member having electrical wires from a connection to the video signal tap of the camera for transmitting video signals from the camera;

10 a pivot locking mechanism on said pivot member and support base assembly for selectively locking said pivot member to said support base assembly to prevent pivoting therebetween;

a viewing module releasably connected to said pivot member for extending rearwardly along a side of the camera, said viewing module having a CRT facing
15 rearwardly and an eyepiece extending rearwardly of said CRT for viewing said CRT, and said viewing module including controls for operating said CRT positioned on an outer surface of said viewing module;

a bayonet locking mechanism releasably connecting said viewing module to said pivot member, said bayonet locking mechanism having a rotatable lock for connecting
20 and disconnecting said viewing module to and from said pivot member without rotating said viewing module relative to said pivot member; and

cooperating and releasable electrical connectors on said pivot member and said viewing module for transmitting video signals and electrical power from said pivot member to said viewing modules.

32. The viewfinder of claim 31, further comprising an extension member
5 releasably connected between said pivot member and said viewing module, said extension member having cooperating and releasable electrical connectors on each end releasably connected to said electrical connectors on said pivot member and said CRT module, respectively, and an electrical cable extending through said extension member and electrically connected to said electrical connectors on each end.

10 33. The viewfinder of claim 32, wherein said extension member is comprised of telescoping tubular members with a locking means between said telescoping tubular members.